

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville P.O. 1600 Huntsville, AL 35807-4301

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News Release

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Engineering and Support Center Change of Command Ceremony

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.— Command of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, changed hands in a ceremony at 10 a.m., Aug. 1 at the University of Alabama, Chan Auditorium.

Col. Harry L. Spear relinquished command to Col. John D. Rivenburgh.

Spear commanded the center for the last four years and will retire in the Huntsville area.

Spear was commissioned in 1973. Prior to coming to Huntsville, Spear commanded the Corps' Louisville District where he oversaw both civil and military construction covering a five-state area. He previously has been assigned to the Mobile District Fort Rucker (Ala.) Area Office as a Project Engineer.

A native of Macon, Ga., Spear holds a Bachelor of Science degree in building construction from Auburn University and a master of science in engineering from the University of Washington. He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

After the change of command, Spear received the Distinguished Service Medal from Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, the Corps of Engineers chief of engineers.

Before coming to Huntsville, Rivenburgh commanded the Huntington District in W. Va. beginning Aug. 1, 2000 following a year of study at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

Rivenburgh is a graduate of Clarkson College of Technology and has a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Connecticut. He was commissioned through Clarkson College of Technology's Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1976. He is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College and the Naval War College and a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Virginia.

The Huntsville Center is a major subordinate command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and operates under a charter that is based on programs rather than geography. The Center's mission involves programs and projects that require functions not normally accomplished by a Corps of Engineers division or district; are national or broad in scope; require a centralized management structure for the effective control of program development, coordination, and execution; require the integration of facilities that cross geographical boundaries; or require commonality, standardization, multiple-site adaptation, or technology transfer.

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville was established in 1967 as the Huntsville Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. At that time, it had one mission – the ballistic missile defense program called SENTINEL. Since then, the scope of the Center's mission has evolved and diversified significantly to include a wide range of programs found nowhere else in the Corps.

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